5/30/70

Dr. James B. Rhoads, Archivist
The National Archives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Rhoads,

It is by no means exceptional that you have not answered my letter of the 18th, for you have had but two weeks. I wrote you after receiving Mr. Angel's letter dated the 13th.

Perhaps, from time to time, you wonder at the indignation I have expressed in my letters. In the course of going over some papers I have located what I promised you the 18th.

This utterly and completely false statement appears in the letter signed by Mr. Angel, relating to the spurious reasons given me for not having provided the picture I had repeatedly asked for over a long period of time: "We did not prepare the photograph earlier because we did not receive the electrostatic copy of rough sketch of the photograph which we requested you to send."

You may recall that Mr. Bernabei had asked you for a copy of this picture and that you asked him to send you a copy. He asked me to do this. If you will consult your own files, you will find a letter dated 12/30/69 and signed by Mr. Eckhoff which begins:

"Mr. Harold Weisberg has sent us an electrostatic copy of the photograph which you requested in your letter".

Is it possible both letters were drafted by the same person?

At what point will you see to it that your agency ceases these relentless efforts to thwart proper and serious research? When will you again respond to proper requests within a reasonable time? Remember, it is you who personally assured me that you have no manpower problem. How else, then, can one account for the countless instances of months passing before responses, often inadequate, are made when they are not ignored? To what other than the intent to frustrate inquiry that is opposed to government policy substituted for fact and truth can so gross a false statement as the one cited be attributed? And what better occasion to remind you that after more than two years my request for an explanation of the violation of your own regulations in contriving an "exclusive" to the New York Times on the GSA-Kennedy estate contract after denying it to me remains without answer?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg